

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC 26th Infantry Regiment in Vimperk

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REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCE

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General Data.

1. Prior to 25 August 1952, the 26th Inf Regt "Juraje Janosika" was stationed at Vimperk (N 50/Q 46). It was subordinate to the 2d Inf Div "Slovenskeho narodniho povstani" in Susice (Schuettenhofen, N 50/Q 28), whose components also included one infantry unit at Nyrsko (Neuern, N 50/U 99), one artillery unit at Klatovy (Klattau, N 50/L 00), and one armored unit near Pisek (N 50/Q 69).<sup>1</sup>
2. Personalities of the regiment included Major Chytil (fmu), regimental commander (2); Major Polak (fmu), deputy commander; and Senior Lieutenant Jiri Kun, commander of the 1st Bn. Most soldiers of the regiment were Slovaks of the 1929 to 1931 classes. On 1 April 1952, about 150 recruits of the 1930 and 1931 classes arrived at Kasperske Hory (N 50/Q 27). The regiment with the regimental headquarters and the regimental headquarters units as well as the 2d and 3d Bns were stationed at Vimperk, the 1st Bn at Kasperske Hory. The headquarters of the 1st Bn was located in a former convent on the north side of Main Square. The companies were quartered in the barracks installation in the southern sector of the town and in a number of other buildings in the town area.

Organization and Strength.

3. The regiment was organized into the headquarters units and the 1st, 2d and 3rd Bns. The headquarters units included one signal- and-engineer unit; one reconnaissance unit of 10 to 15 men; one heavy weapons company; one SP gun unit; one NCO candidate school of about 150 men; one MT company; one service company; and the regiment band of about 30 men, most of whom were non-commissioned officers. The 1st Bn was organized into the 1st, 2d and 3rd Rifle Cos of about 40 men each; the 4th Hv Machine Gun Co of 40 men; and the 5th Accompanying Weapons Co of about 70 men. Units of unidentified assignment included one snipers' company and one AA machine gun company at Vimperk and one rocket launcher unit at Kasperske Hory.

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Ordinance and Equipment.

4. The weapons of each rifle company included rifles, submachine guns, 2 rifles with telescopic sights, 4 model-26 light machine guns, 1 heavy machine gun, and 3 AT weapons (pancerovku) of about 100-mm. Each AT weapon consisted of a metal tube, about 120 cm long, with a plastic jacket on the rear half, a pistol grip with trigger and a battery box for electric release mounted **in front** of the grip, a frame-type sight and a folding stand. The heavy machine gun company included model 98-N rifles, 9 model-37 heavy machine guns carried by horse-drawn carts and 3 AT weapons of the above described type. The arms of the accompanying weapons company included 6 x 82-mm mortars carried by trucks; 2 AT guns of about 50-mm equipped with very long barrels and towed by trucks; and 3 AT weapons (tarasnice). Each AT weapon of this model consisted of a barrel longer and larger in diameter than that of the "pancerovku" model. They mounted, at the rear, a basket-shaped extension with openings to emit the powder gases; the stock with trigger and battery box; the sight; a carriage; and a wire loop on the rear of the barrel to tow the weapon. The heavy weapons company included 6 light AT guns with short barrels mounting no muzzle brakes; an unidentified number of guns of about 70-mm towed by trucks; an unidentified number of 120-mm mortars; and 4 AA guns on two axles. The weapons of the SP gun unit included 6 SP guns of an older model. The rocket launchers of the rocket launcher unit were carried by 3-axle trucks. The AA machine gun company included 10 to 20-mm guns with carriages, which were loaded on trucks before marches and were used as AA, anti-infantry and, in cases of emergency, AT weapons. The motor-transport equipment of the MT company included 100 to 150 trucks. Mortars displayed during a demonstration of the regiment included four models, namely the known 82-mm and 120-mm mortars, one mortar lighter than the 82-mm model, and one mortar with a barrel, about 50 cm long, of 30 to 40-mm.
5. In August 1952, the model 48-A and 48-B submachine guns of the regiment were exchanged for submachine guns of a similar model with a barrel somewhat longer. According to a company commander, the caliber of the new submachine guns was standardized with the Soviet weapons. <sup>3</sup>

Training.

6. The NCO candidate school was organized into one rifle platoon, one gun platoon, one mortar platoon, and one heavy machine gun platoon. In January 1952, it commenced training activities which were scheduled to be terminated by 1 November 1952.
7. During river crossing exercise held in August 1952, the entire regiment was ferried by an engineer unit, with heavy weapons and trucks carried by a wooden raft linked with 12 pneumatic boats.
8. In mid-May 1952, the entire regiment was rotated to the Glaserwald (N 50/Q 17) training ground. The unit, which was accommodated in tent camps, was scheduled to stay there until October 1952. Record firing and a practice with heavy weapons, which were not fired, were held in early August. A similar record firing exercise was held in mid-August with the troops entrenching and heavy weapons firing over

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their heads. Exercises at battalion level were held frequently. Only one exercise at regimental level, namely a tactical march toward Klatovy, was held in June. The practices involved no other elements of the division, which were located near Glaserwald.<sup>4</sup>

Miscellaneous Data.

9. In June 1952, volunteers applied for enlistment in a gas-defense unit to be activated near Mor.Ostrava (P 50/O 59).
10. In early 1952, the civil slaughter house at Kasperske Hory was assigned to the Quartermaster Corps. The installation provided the troops stationed at Kasperske Hory, Vimperk, Klatovy, Susice, Myrsko and other places with supplies.<sup>5</sup>
11. PS units were billeted in three buildings in Kasperske Hory which was the training center of a PS brigade.<sup>6</sup>

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1. [REDACTED] Comment.

The present report substantiates the statement of a previous report that the 2d Inf Div is stationed at Susice with the 26th Inf Regt stationed at Vimperk. [REDACTED] No previous report mentioned the name "Juraje Janosika". The 23d Inf Regt is carried in Myrsko, the 10th Arty Regt in Klatovy. In view of the reference report, a tank- and-SP-gun regiment of the 2d Inf Div is carried in Obytce. No previous report stated that elements of the 2d Inf Div were located in the Pisek area.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment.

The present report substantiates the statement of a previous report on Major Chytil, commander of the 26th Inf Regt, and the location of the regiment. [REDACTED]

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3. [REDACTED] Comment.

The statements on organization and equipment largely coincide with the statements of the reference report. [REDACTED]

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4. [REDACTED] Comment.

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In the spring of 1952, summer training was held for all divisions.

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5. [REDACTED] Comment. It is believed that the installation supplies all units of the 2d Inf Div.

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